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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7532
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000022

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/16/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [OVIP](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: POTUS VISIT: BIG WELCOME, SMALL PROTESTS

REF: A. MANAMA 0002

[1B](#). MANAMA 0014

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Summary: King Hamad put on an impressive show in welcoming the President to Bahrain January 12-13. A lavish welcome ceremony that include
- 2.(C) President Bush arrived in Bahrain on January 12 to a warm welcome from King Hamad and conciliatory words from most media outlets. While r
- 3.(C) The visit also coincided with positive action on trafficking in persons, as the King enacted new anti-trafficking legislation three days
- 4.(SBU) "Shabeeba," a youth organization staged a demonstration on the eve of the President's visit. "Shabeeba" is associated with the unregist
- 5.(SBU) The Embassy received open letters addressed to the President from a number of activists and human rights campaigners, including Freedom
- 6.(SBU) Al-Haq delivered a petition to poloff on January 10 calling on the U.S. to pressure the GOB on democracy and human rights issues. Al-Ha
- 7.(C) Singace and other activists criticized the President's remarks praising democratic reform efforts in Bahrain. By contrast, the mainstream
- 8.(C) Comment: President Bush's visit will be remembered for a long time here in Bahrain. Despite cynicism in some quarters over the purpose of